

In the claims.

1 A call screening method suitable for a cordless telephone system
having a base station operable in a broadcast mode and a standard mode

5 communicatively coupled to a plurality of mobile units, comprising:

setting the base station in the broadcast mode;

10 signaling that an incoming call by a caller has been received by the base
station;

substantially simultaneously,

recording an incoming message, and

15 broadcasting the incoming message to a plurality of mobile units;

determining if one of the plurality of mobile units, as a callee, desires to
initiate a conversation with the caller based upon the incoming message;

20 setting the base station to a standard mode when it is determined that one of
the plurality of mobile units desires to converse with the caller; and

initiating the conversation between the callee and the caller.

25 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

broadcasting the incoming message from the base station during a
single time slot of a time division;

receiving the incoming message at the plurality of mobile units; and

30 converting the incoming message into sound by the plurality of mobile
units.

3. The method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

placing the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode.

5 4. The method, as recited in claim 3, wherein the placing the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode comprises synchronizing the plurality of mobile units to the single time slot .

10 5. The method, as recited in claim 4, wherein setting the base station to the broadcast mode comprises designating the single time slot.

15 6. The method, as recited in claim 5, wherein at least one of the plurality of mobile units is a hands free unit, wherein converting the audio message into sound by the hands free unit is automatic, and wherein the placing of the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode places the plurality of mobile units in a receive only mode.

20 7. The method, as recited in claim 6, further comprising:
originating broadcast origination signal at an additional mobile unit;
transmitting a broadcast origination signal from the additional mobile unit to
the base part; and
transmitting the audio message from the additional mobile unit to the base part.

25 8. The method, as recited in claim 7, wherein placing the plurality of mobile units in a receive only mode, comprises turning on only speakers of the plurality of mobile units without turning on microphones of the plurality of mobile units.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein setting the base station to

the standard mode comprises synchronizing those plurality of mobile units not desiring to converse with the caller to another time slot that is different than the single time slot.